

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 16TH JANUARY.

A MOST wonderful invention is reported from Vienna. An Austrian engineer has, it is said, designed a truck to run before every railway train, being maintained always at a fixed (but adjustable) distance in front by the force of an electric current transmitted along the metals from a dynamo on the engine. The current is conducted through mercury contained in glass tubes on the pilot-truck. If, therefore, the truck comes into collision the tubes are broken and the contact consequently destroyed. The interruption of the current instantly and automatically applies the breaks on the following train. It is claimed by the inventor that two expresses, fitted with this impunity, can be set to run full tilt at each other. The collision of their pilot-trucks would arrest the progress of both trains before they could meet. The element of human fallibility is accordingly entirely eliminated, and drivers may dash through a whole series of danger-signals without risk, being automatically arrested the moment they reach the spot that is really dangerous.

AN ALARMING death-rate is reported from Berar. In September last there were over twenty thousand births in the three months of July, August and September. The excess of deaths over births was twenty-three thousand.

ANECDOTES of the late Lord Lyons crop up plentifully. The following is one not very generally known. When M. Ferry's famous Article VII., which decreed the expulsion of the religious orders, was creating a flutter in all the monastic houses of France, the Superior of the Passionists in Paris came to the British Ambassador, his order being an English one, and asked help. Lord Lyons demurred at first, but eventually said that he would see what he could do. He got into a cab with the father Superior, taking a Union Jack with him, and drove to the Passionist House in the Avenue Hoche. Arrived there, it was the work of a moment to hoist the English flag over the house, which, in the shadow of its folds, became a fortress. There is some poetic fitness in the fact that the Roman Catholic Church, which Lord Lyons befriended then, should be able to return the service when he sought shelter from it in the dark hour.

THE Duke of Wellington lost the services of a good chef for no other reason than that he was careless regarding the quality of his meals. "I cannot stay with him," said the wounded artist. "I cook him a dinner fit for ze king, he say nozing! I go out, and leave ze dinner to ze stupid cookmaid—again he say nozing."

SAYS the *Daily Chronicle*.—"The Court of Common Council seem to have shown good taste in their selection of a gift to the Princess of Wales in commemoration of the approaching silver wedding of that charming and highly popular Royal lady and the Heir Apparent to the Crown. Their choice has fallen on a silver model of the Imperial Institute, now in course of erection, to be provided at a cost of five hundred guineas. It was, of course, desirable that the form of the gift should in some way suggest his Royal Highness. As the Imperial Institute will be in large measure the creation of the Prince of Wales, who has shown great activity and energy in promoting it, his wife will be appropriately honoured and complimented by receiving as a silver wedding present a model of the imposing edifice and institution, the success of which her husband has so much at heart."

AN American contemporary cites a case of remarkable longevity. It is that of Frank Hicks, coloured, residing near McKinney, Texas, who is now 117 years of age. The evidence of his age is afforded by a bill of sale from a slave-trader to F. H. Welch, dated 1850, and certifying that Hicks was eighty years old. As in the sale of a slave like that of a horse, the vendor, while he might have an object in underrating the age of his chattel, could have no possible motive in adding to his years, the proof that Hicks has spent 117 years in this vale of tears is conclusive. Hicks, though a

little bent, is in perfect health, not looking a day over seventy, and giving hope of lasting another quarter of a century, or to see 142 years. When sold to Mr. Welch, he was thrown in with his wife, but in the thirty-seven years that have since elapsed he has never failed of doing a man's work at hoeing, and this year, with the aid of his wife, now in her ninetieth year, he has harvested eight bales of cotton, which he sold in McKinney last week. The cotton was grown on the plantation of Mr. Welch, who, out of regard to his former slave's old age and diligent service, allows him free use of all the land he can farm. By his present wife Hicks had fifteen children, thirteen of whom are living.

TUESDAY, 17TH JANUARY.

THE *New York Sun* says:—"The unusually large number of young men who have been committed to the State Insane asylum of Michigan in the last year and-a-half has led to the discovery that almost all of them smoked cigarettes to excess. In many cases it is said to be absolutely certain that cigarette-smoking was the cause of the insanity. It is also reported that a prominent society young man in Detroit has been made deaf by cigarette smoking."

THE Emperor of Russia is again credited with an intention to visit his latest acquisitions in Central Asia. Until recently no one had heard anything fresh about his movements in this direction, when suddenly it was announced by Reuter's agent that his Majesty would before long proceed to the Caucasus. To this piece of information it is innocently added, as a sort of after thought, that the Czar has "no serious intention of visiting Merv and Chardjui." Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, Governor of the Caucasus, has meanwhile arrived at St. Petersburg, apparently in order to make arrangements for his master's journey. The appearance of the White Czar, in all his magnificence, among his Turkoman subjects would have a considerable effect.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Lancet* suggests a new method of combating hydrophobia, which in the opinion of the editor, is at least open to no objection on *a priori* grounds. He has designed what may be termed an antiseptic pencil: a small point composed of nitrate of potash with a minute percentage of corrosive sublimate. This is contained in so small a compass that it can be habitually carried in a case attached, for instance to a key-ring. In the event of a bite it would be available for instant application by the person bitten. It is further suggested that, for the benefit of poor persons and children, policemen should be supplied with a stock as the material can be kept for any length of time without losing its efficacy.

THE Czar's birthday present to the Czarina consisted of a splendid necklace formed of forty emeralds, all of exactly the same size and colour. It has taken three years to get together these extraordinarily fine gems, and match them exactly.

MR. PHILIP HARWOOD, the late editor of the *Saturday Review*, whose death occurred the other day at Hastings, had, writes a London correspondent, "spent the earliest years of his life fighting the battle for the repeal of the Corn Laws by editing the *League*, the organ of the movement. In private life his kindly and charming personality won for him a number of attached friends, and one must have gone far to find a sunnier, sweeter nature than that of the editor of the most cynical of our weekly journals. He was justly proud of his gifted daughter, the lady who, under the name of 'Ross Neil,' has earned fame as a writer of poetic dramas. During the long period in which he edited the *Saturday Review* Mr. Harwood never took a holiday till two years before his retirement, when, after a dangerous attack of bronchitis, he travelled in Italy. After a second severe attack it was felt advisable that he should live in a milder climate, and he removed to Hastings, where he died."

TOWARDS the close of the month the Lieutenant-Governor of the North Western Provinces will proceed to Bareilly, where His Honour will hold a Durbar for the native gentlemen of the Rohilkhand Division.

THE Durbar which the Lieutenant-Governor of North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of

Oudh will hold at Lucknow next Monday will be for the Lucknow and Seetapore Divisions. Later on His Honour will hold Durbars at Rae Bareilly and Fyzabad.

WE learn that the Amir, who reached Jellalabad on the 14th, has handed his sword of State to his son Habibulla, thus appointing him his heir. The Amir has with him a large number of troops for whom supplies are being collected. It is rumoured that he intends in the spring making an expedition against Bojour and Swat, with a view to establishing his authority permanently in those States.

IT is now definitely settled that Captain Griesbach goes to Kabul to institute geological explorations for the Amir. He will start very shortly.

GENERAL Boulanger has written to M. Susini, declining the offer of that gentleman to give up his seat in the Chamber of Deputies to the General. He said he considered it to be a patriotic duty to adhere to his military duties, in anticipation of an approaching war in which France would have greater need of Generals than of Deputies.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JANUARY.

THE Calcutta High Court have already fixed their vacation for next autumn. It will be from the 10th of September to the 17th of November. There will be some changes in the Court during the year, as Mr. Prinsep takes furlough at the end of March, while another Civilian Judge contemplates retiring altogether.

FROM day to day in the *Daily Telegraph* (London) the correspondence still goes on under the attractive heading "Dethroning Shakespeare." There is no doubt whatever that the letters are good reading. They have thrown no little light on the private character, relationship, and peculiar bent of the dramatist's mind. Perhaps the most important letter that has appeared within the last few days is one from Lady Martin, so long well known as Helen Faucit, the actress. This is certainly one of the finest letters in the whole group. It is beautifully written, and has as much grace and charm as the acting of Miss Faucit used to have in the old days of her splendour and renown. She asks whether there is the faintest indication in any of Bacon's writings that his mind had dwelt upon what is best and purest in womanhood, or that he could have portrayed the qualities which constitute woman's highest and subtlest charm? Is there anything to suggest that he could have drawn her in her weakness, her waywardness, her caprice, her strength, her self-sacrifice, her constancy? What a magnificent gallery Shakespeare has given, varied in character, with surroundings so widely diversified, yet with the same essential charm of exquisite womanhood which has enshrined them in the hearts and the minds of the men and women of his own and other lands.

THE Bengal Irrigation Commission have resumed work, and have visited Dehri Rhoas, and Daodnagar, collecting information and taking evidence.

THE following story is related by the *Hindu*. "Three ryots of the Bellary District were going to Madras, accompanied by a Government official—a Sub-Registrar. It happened that the Collector of the District was travelling by the same train. While the train was waiting in a certain station, the European accosted the Sub-Registrar with the words—"Where are you dragging these helpless ryots?" The Sub-Registrar replied that the ryots were "dragging" him to the National Congress in Madras. This so much impressed the Englishman that he exclaimed—"This is a good sign for India." So it undoubtedly is, and we are glad that the assertion comes so unexpectedly from the lips of an Anglo-Indian official."

THE *Bombay Gazette* believes that the true deficit in the forth-coming Budget will be somewhat in excess of two crores. The deficit has been caused chiefly by excessive expenditure in Burmah, and by the falling off in Opium and Railway receipts. There is, it is said, no intention of augmenting the Income-tax, and no chance of reimposing import duties on Lancashire goods; the Government seem to urge the consideration that the latter course, if it were ever

feasible in the last ten years, is now put beyond the range of practical politics by the fact that Manchester goods have been almost beaten out of the market, not only in India, but in China and other Eastern ports by the cotton manufactures of India, and that the re-imposition of the import duties is, therefore, more than any party Secretary of State dare propose.

THURSDAY, 19TH JANUARY.

It is officially announced that from this year exemption from military service, under any circumstances, is to be taxed in Russia for the benefit of the State. Whether the conscript draws a number in the ordinary ballot exempting him from service, or claims his privilege as the eldest son of a widowed mother, or for other family reasons, or is refused as physically ineligible, his freedom from military obligations will have to be paid for. 'This measure would really appear to be designed on purpose to exasperate the wretched peasantry.'

The *Kathiawar Times*, which has just made its appearance at Rajkote, thus writes about the Thakore Sahib of Gondal:—His Highness was born on the 24th of October, 1865, and succeeded to the *gadi* on the 27th of December, 1869. During his minority the State was managed first by an officer appointed by Government and subsequently by a Joint Administration. He distinguished himself during his College course, which ran over a term of ten years, as a very able and apt pupil of Mr. C. Macnaughten, the energetic and worthy Principal of the Rajkumar College. In 1883 the Thakore Sahib accompanied by Colonel Hancock, the President of the Rajasthani Court, visited England, and travelled through the principal parts of Europe for a period extending over six months. So great was the aptitude and skill shewn by him in the administration of his State by Colonel H. L. Nutt that full powers of executing the State functions were vested in him on the 25th of August, 1884, even before he completed his minority. Having taken considerable liking to the Science of Physics and Medicine in which he had made some progress he revisited England, where he remained for about two years, and completed his study. Moreover, the degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him by the University of Oxford. In 1885 the University of Bombay appointed him a Fellow in appreciation of his high education.

The bestowal of honours in China does not extend only to the living and the dead, but it appears that sometimes even a spirit is thus honoured. It must, of course, be a good and beneficent spirit, and such a one has lately appeared at Jeho, where there is a palace belonging to the Emperor about two hundred years old. Two large rivers unite near Jeho, which are kept under some sort of control by weirs and sluices, but on two or three occasions these have been carried away, and the town and surrounding country flooded, though no damage was ever done to the Palace. Last August an unusually heavy flood carried away the weir, but the people repaired to the temple of the river-gods and offered up earnest prayers to the General of the Warlich river, when the waters fell immediately. Again, in September there was another flood, and it was announced that the good spirit had appeared in living form in front of the table of the Golden Dragon Prince. Again, prayers and sacrifices were offered, and the water at once decreased in height by a whole foot, no damage being done. In gratitude for this the officials and people have memorialized the Emperor that a title may be bestowed on the spirit as a grateful acknowledgment of the protection which it has afforded. Old age and the possession of a large number of descendants also seem to entitle men to honour, as the Governor of a province has submitted an application for permission to erect a Memorial Arch to an individual named Ohao Yuhsin, a native of Shantung. His claims to honour appear to consist in the fact that he is eighty-two years of age, has six sons, thirteen grandsons, five great-grandsons, and one great-great-grandson, and as he remembers his father and grandfather he has now seen seven generations.—*The Saturday Evening Journal*.

The Gaekwar of Baroda, who was lately in Paris, will only spend a week or so at his capital after his return, and then proceed to Ootacamund for the hot season.

The Secretary of State has replied to the Memorial sent by the citizens of Bombay against the appointment of a Civilian to the post of Chief Presidency Magistrate. Lord Cross points out that the appointment is one which has been equally open to the Civilians and barrister-at-laws, and in his Lordship's opinion there is no reason for departing from the practice of appointing a Civilian or barrister as may seem expedient to Government.

FRIDAY, 20TH JANUARY.

ONE of the chief events in the record of the Indo-European Telegraph Department last year was the substantial reduction in the rates for Press messages and the consequent increase in the number of messages sent. In the previous year the Press messages numbered 191, containing 91,621 words, while last year they numbered 1,355, containing 121,566. This increase explains why the receipts were only some £1,000 less than in the year 1885-86, although that was an exceptional year owing to the great number of messages wired from the Afghan Commission. As to rapidity of transmission, which is the next most important point so far as the public are concerned, the Teheran route reached the lowest figure on record, the average being only 1 h. 31 m. After all allowance has been made for the exceptional press of traffic in the preceding year, this is an improvement of nearly half an hour. The average time on the Suez route was 2 h. 31 m., and on the Turkish 13 h. 23 m.

In some parts of the coast of Sumatra and the neighbouring islands, the fishermen test the depth of the sea, and also the nature of the sea bottom, by the noises they hear on applying the ear to one end of an oar of which the other end is plunged in the water. At a depth of 20 feet and less, the sound is a crepitation, similar to that produced when salt is thrown on burning charcoal; at 50 feet it is like the ticking of a watch the tick being more or less rapid, according to whether the bottom is entirely of coral or alternately of coral and mud, or of sand. If the bottom is entirely of sand, the sound is clear; if of mud, it resembles the humming of a swarm of bees. On dark nights the fishermen select their fishery grou according to these indications.

RUMOURS have been freely circulated about Hyderabad, says the *Deccan Times*, that for some time things have not been going as smoothly as they did between His Highness and his Secretary. It was even said that the Nizam had become estranged from his official adviser, and that matters were assuming a very serious aspect. The *Times* has the best authority for stating that these rumours are absolutely without foundation. The relations between the Nizam and Colonel Marshall were never so cordial as they are at this moment. His Highness leans as much as he ever did on his Secretary for counsel and advice.

THE question regarding the vacant Commission-ship, which gave rise to these unpleasant rumours, has been settled, we understand, without dispute. The names of those who were considered fit were duly laid before the Nizam, and he personally selected an officer. No pressure was brought to bear on him, and no candidate in particular was supported by any one.

THE infrequency of railway accidents in India is remarkable in view of the peculiar risks to which railways in this part of the world are exposed. This is brought out clearly by last year's experiences in Bengal. Thus a signal hut was attacked by dacoits, and one of the men on duty was much hurt, while the others were driven from their post. Out of fourteen persons convicted for trying to upset trains, ten were small boys who put stones on the rails for the pleasure of seeing them crushed by a passing train. Nearly a thousand spikes were wrenched from their places on the permanent way and carried off by thieves; yet evidence to secure a conviction could only be obtained against six persons. A large percentage of the fatalities on English railways, apart from disastrous collisions, occur among the servants of the companies, but in India the casualties among railway servants are greatly outnumbered by fatal accidents to the foolish people who persist in walking sleepily along the line in front of moving trains or loitering ahead of trains at railway stations. Out of 107 persons killed on the railways of Bengal last year, only twenty-nine were railway servants, while most of the others belong to the outside category.

THE Council of the Secretary of State for India is now formerly of Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, K. C. S. I., C. I. E., formerly Member of the Madras Council, and subsequently Member of the Viceroy's Council, aged 66; Colonel Sir Owen Burne, K. C. S. I., half pay, former Military Secretary to the Viceroy of India, aged 51; Mr. Bertram Currie; Sir Robert Davies, K. C. S. I., C. I. E., Bengal Civil Service, Retired, late Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, aged 64; General Charles Foster, C. B., late 16th Lancers, aged 70; Sir Alfred Lyall, K. C. B., Bengal Civil Service, Retired, late Lieutenant-Governor of the N. W. Provinces and Oudh, aged 53; Major-General Sir Peter Lumsden, G. C. B., G. C. S. I., Bengal Army, Retired, aged 67; Mr. W. G. Pedder C. S. I. Bombay Civil Service, Retired; Sir James Peile K. C. S. I. Bombay Civil Service, Retired, late Member

of the Bombay Council; Major General Sir Henry Rawlinson, K. C. B., Bombay Army, Retired, aged 78; General Sir Donald Stewart, Bart., C. C. S. I. Bengal Army, Retired, late Commander-in-Chief in India, aged 64; Sir John Strachey, C. C. S. I., C. I. E., Bengal Civil Service, Retired, formerly Financial Member of the Viceroy's Council; Lieut. General Richard Strachey, C. S. I., Royal (Bengal) Engineers, Retired, aged 72; and Colonel Henry Yule, C. B., Royal (Bengal) Engineer, Retired, aged 69.

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY.

THE 'Native Thinker' of Madras thus speaks of the Star of the East:—'This celestial stranger may now be distinctly seen any of these mornings in the eastern part of the sky. The absence of the moon in that part of the sky is a great advantage. At about 4 a. m. the star will have risen about the horizon sufficiently clear of clouds and mist. It is visible a little above the planet Jupiter. Ordinary people are apt to mistake it for Venus, but it is not Venus at all. Indeed, it is no planet at all. It is far more brilliant than the brightest planet. It is far more brilliant than the brightest star. Its light is identifiable with that of a star and not with that of a planet. It does not exhibit different colors like some stars. Seen through a powerful telescope, it distinctly exhibits a circular body which fixed stars never do. It can hardly be a comet because there is no tail visible, nor is there any nebulosity, about its body. Altogether, it is a very remarkable celestial body, worthy of careful observation by all who take interest in Astronomy. It ought to be all the more diligently examined, if it be true, as is alleged, that it becomes visible only once in four hundred years. No doubt, the most powerful of modern telescopes will scrutinize it.'

SPEAKING of the same Star the *Pioneer* says:—'The brilliant body, which, as the Star of Bethlehem, has been the innocent cause of so much excitement during the last few weeks, is nothing more than the planet Venus near that position in her orbit in which she can send the greatest amount of light towards us. But it is not impossible, says *Nature*, that after all we have really been again in the presence of the Star of Bethlehem, which was probably really Venus as a morning visitor. The fact that the morning apparition of the Cytherean planet is the only appearance of a brilliant body in the heavens which is restricted to the East is in favour of this supposition. Venus, too, has always attracted even the wisest of men.'

THE number of women now employed by the Post Office throughout Great Britain as telegraphists, counter women, sorters, &c., is 2,981. There are 750 female clerks in the central establishments of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, and 36 women thus employed throughout the provinces.

LONDON is not, after all, the most densely populated city in England. The density of the population in the city of Liverpool, as a whole, measured by the number of persons to the acre, is equal to 112, or double that of the Metropolis. There are actually areas in which the proportion reaches 1,200.

DEATHS IN CALCUTTA.—During the week ended the 14th of January there were 265 deaths registered in Calcutta, giving a death-rate of 31.9 per thousand per annum. In the previous week there were 307 deaths, and the death-rate was 36.9 per thousand. There were no deaths from small-pox, 32 from cholera, 25 from dysentery, 73 from fevers, 19 from tetanus, and 2 from causes not specified. The deaths are thus classified:—1 Non-Asiatic, 7 Mixed Races, 186 Hindus, 69 Mahomedans, and 2 other races. The Health Officer adds the following remarks:—The total number of deaths registered during the week ending the 14th of January was 265, against 307 and 244 in the two preceding weeks, and less than the corresponding week of last year by 17. There were 32 deaths from cholera, against 19 and 17 in the two preceding weeks; the number is higher than the average of the past quinquennium by 9. There were no deaths from small-pox during the week. The mortality from fevers and bowel complaints amounted to 74 and 39 respectively, against 85 and 60 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 31.9 per mille per annum against 32.5, the mean of the last five years.

ONE of the ex-King Theebaw's treasures is likely to be on view shortly in London. It is a carved ivory chair, which was commenced while Theebaw was on the throne by a forester of Moulmein, but which, as it took two years to make, was not completed when General Prendergast sent the King as a prisoner to Calcutta. It is said to be composed of 25 elephant tusks, and to be worth many thousands of rupees. It was purchased by a gentleman of Rangoon, where it was lately on view, and it is now to be sent to the Imperial Institute.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1888.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

This pet scheme of Sir Rivers Thompson once more claims public attention. Had Sir Stuart Bayley's predecessor in office been still in possession of the Belvedere *musnud*, the Bill would have long before this been past all public criticism and in full working order as a part and parcel of the law of the land. But Sir Rivers could not carry out his intention and it was left to Sir Stuart to deal with the Bill in its present shape. In noticing the Bill in its present form, which Sir Stuart very properly refused to hurry through the Council last Session, we ventured to express a hope that the "enlightened sympathy of the present ruler of Bengal will reduce to a minimum the objectionable features of a measure which his predecessor has tied him down with and which however unpalatable has now gone too far for rescission." If it were wise and practicable to drop a Bill already introduced, we would not have been surprised at Sir Stuart's ordering its immediate withdrawal from the Council. But certain principles have been accepted and certain measures devised not by Sir Rivers Thompson as an individual, but by the Government of Bengal, and no Government whose watchword very justly is a policy of continuity could set its face against them *in toto*. It remained for Sir Stuart to swallow the bitter pill prepared by his predecessor with the best possible grace and to divest it of as much gall and wormwood as could be done without completely changing its fundamental character. In expressing, therefore, the hope referred to above we counted upon legitimate chances of its being realised, and we note with satisfaction that indication has been given of our calculations not having been wholly unfounded. If Sir Stuart was unable to drop the obnoxious measure altogether he could at least shape and polish it so as to do away with the objectionable features as much as possible, and in opening the present session of the Legislative Council of Bengal, His Honor gave the most unmistakeable expression to his determination to do so. His Honor sent back the Bill to the Select Committee to reconsider their Report. One of Sir Stuart's principal reasons for doing so was that the Government had not received communications representing the views of some of the most important public Associations of the province. The Chamber of Commerce, the Health Society, the Trades Association, the Defence Association, the Eurasian Association and such other public bodies had loudly clamoured for the repression of the Hindoo element in the Corporation; their views had fairly prevailed upon Sir Rivers Thompson, as in fact it was at their instance and for the special behoof of the community they represented that the measure was primarily devised. Sir Stuart Bayley was anxious to know the views of other influential and representative public bodies. The British Indian Association and some other public bodies have now sent in their representations, and these representations have, as might be expected, been in thorough condemnation of the measure.

The Committee of the British Indian Association have done well to go to the root of the question. They have considered the provisions of the Bill *seriatim* which we shall notice from time to time, as the space at our disposal may permit. They have specially considered two vital points on which the difference of opinion is naturally the greatest, *viz.*, the principles of the proposed Amalgamation itself, and the altered constitution of the Corporation. We have, we confess, our doubts if the Association has done well to re-open the question of Amalgamation, for the principles dictating it seem to have been accepted for good. It is however, not judicious to despair "so long as there is breath," as a homely but expressive Bengali adage has it. Hoping against hope the Committee of the Association "beg that a

thorough enquiry by experts be instituted before the measure is finally accepted." Sir Stuart's attitude alone encouraged the Committee to go up with such a bold prayer, and as it is based on thoroughly sound reasons we shall consider them in some detail at the risk, we are afraid, of being voted anachronic.

The Government never cared to state the grounds on which the proposed Amalgamation is held necessary, and the public are not aware of any regular enquiry ever having been made before the orders on the subject were passed. A Committee, it is true, was appointed to report; but it was a purely conventional affair. The Committee was to exercise no independent judgment, but was distinctly informed that the principles of amalgamation had been definitely accepted. They were only to consider the details of a foregone conclusion. The necessity and utility of the measure was, therefore, never even pretended to be considered. There can be no doubt that the measure is not only not needed for the good of the town, but will entail serious hardship on its inhabitants. An addition of a further area of 12 square miles and a population of nearly 2 lacs is what the scheme will bring to the town without any adequate provision for meeting the necessarily increased requirements. Calcutta itself has much yet to do for completing its own sanitary arrangements, and its existing resources are far from being commensurate with its wants. The additional area is alike noted for its grossly defective sanitary condition as for its poverty, and a veritable hygeia will have to be evolved within an area of eighteen square miles with the means which are admittedly inadequate for six. No new sources of income worth naming can be pointed to for meeting the new obligations sought to be imposed upon the Municipality. All the improvements, therefore, effected by the Justices and the Commissioners will count for nothing, and we shall very likely have to return to the olden open-surface-drain days of Calcutta before long. Every nerve may be strained in squeezing an increased License Tax out of a notoriously poor population; the Municipality may be made to undergo the humiliation and shame of sharing even the filthy gains of professional singers and dancing girls, as provided in the third schedule of the Bill against all dictates of morality and decency; but still the two ends will never meet. Sanitary improvements of the environment of the town may add to its own sanitary perfection, and no one would grudge them if only the question of wherewithal were made a little more clear. It is an injunction of law as well as equity to be 'just before you are generous,' and Calcutta will hardly be able to be so with its forced responsibilities and reduced resources.

But not only the Suburbs have to be provided for but the Kidderpore Docks also, though docks are not necessary appurtenances of a town. The gains arising therefrom are to go to the Port Commissioners, but the Corporation must pay for their expensive sanitary arrangements, besides having generally to guard the town against the possible mischievous effects of having just to its south, whence the breeze blows 8 months out of 12, an immense sheet of stagnant water constantly contaminated by a large floating population. The complaint might not have been so great if any tangible benefits could be reasonably looked forward to. Sanitary perfection of the Suburbs under the proposed arrangements is a contingency of which few can be very sanguine, and the town will, in the mean while, suffer considerably. The Suburbs will also have to suffer. While rich localities like Chitpore and Karsipore, likely to yield large assessments, are excluded, Tangra and such like sparsely populated places, ill able to bear additional taxation, will be included within the Municipal area. To a majority of Suburbans the high and numerous town rates and taxes will be extremely oppressive, which, as the Committee of the British Indian Association humorously observe, 'no possible improvement in health can alleviate.' Good sanitary arrangements, however excellent in their way, will hardly be regarded as a fair compensation for reduced means of living. In the interest, therefore, of the towns-people as well as the Suburbs the proposed amalgamation is undesirable as it is indefensible.

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FURTHER PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MUNICIPAL BILL.

THE Select Committee have submitted a preliminary report of their labours. Part I. of Chapter II. of the Bill, relating to the constitution of the Corporation has been considered in this part of the Report. We are on principle opposed to piecemeal reporting of this description, and should have been glad if the entire Report, when ready, had been submitted for public criticism.

The preliminary report is throughout one of apology to the European Associations. We are surprised to come across language such as the following in a formal and public document like it:—"The Committee hope that on a fuller consideration the Association will see &c. &c." The Committee are surely not subordinate to any Association to which such apologetic and explanatory tone is due and to propitiate which and to earn whose good will is any part of the Committee's duty. The contrast becomes amusingly heightened by all omission of mention of native public opinion. The Hon'ble Kalinath Mitra has not signed the report as he is *entirely opposed to the principle* adopted by his colleagues.

The Committee, we are assured, have not adopted the extreme views of the European Associations regarding the introduction of the "principle of nationality"; but the mischief they have done, as we shall show later on, is far greater than if those views were openly and honestly adopted. The number of Commissioners has not been raised from 75 to 80 as was unanimously demanded by the Native press and the Native public bodies. Some concession has indeed been made in the shape of allowing the fellows and graduates of the Calcutta University to vote in the Wards in which they respectively reside, instead of the Senate House Ward, and of doing away with the clause about contribution for mass education. But there was no difficulty in all these matters since they related to Native interest alone. The hospital maintenance clause and provision for public entertainments have been retained as they touch the European community primarily, for whose special benefit and advancement the whole of the Bill, from the beginning to the end, has been expressly framed. Barristers, Pleaders, Vakils and Attorneys have been deprived of their right of voting in the Ward in which they practise their profession and with whose interests they are intimately connected, for fear lest they should swamp the European tradespeople. This change, we are told, is "equitably called for" at the instance of the Trades and Defence Associations. But as far as 'equity' in this matter is concerned, our ideas are altogether different from those of the Select Committee.

By far the most objectionable feature of the Report, however, is the Committee's recommendation about plural voting. Under the existing Act, as the Committee of the British Indian Association point out in their letter, a Joint family or Company has not more than one vote. The amended Bill proposed to allow joint owners and occupiers and partners in a Company to have one to six votes according to certain scales. This concession, which again was made in the interests of the European community, who own the bulk of the partnership concerns of the town, was altogether uncalled for and wrong in principle. So long as any interest in the town is one and undivided it should be treated as such and be represented by only one vote in each ward. The Trades Association in their anxiety for Hindoo repression wanted the Committee to devise some means for attaining the object. The Committee have stolen a march and given the Association more than it dared ask for. Equity again is pleaded, and an "Equitable Solution" of the question is found in extending the principle of multiple voting with a vengeance. A rich owner, occupier, or Licensee will now have so many as twelve votes in a ward, and if he is qualified to vote in a second or third ward he will have as many votes over and over again. The evident principles of Self-government have been openly set at naught by the Committee by the enunciation of oligarchic principles which we should have thought a Committee of five European gentlemen of light

and leading was perfectly incapable of. The references to the provisions of the English Law made by the Committee are scarcely to the point and we are not interested in noticing them here. Very few Hindoo families will reap the benefit, if any, of the plural voting system. The gain will be all on the European side of the balance sheet, and the Committee are unable to deny that it will be so. They admit that they "do not mainly adopt" plural voting on the ground of the certainty of "making very material difference in the nationality of the Corporation." A clear enunciation of the Committee's article of faith in this regard is to be found in the following extract from the report:—

"The Committee base their decision far more on the intrinsic equity of the principle and its extreme importance in the best interests of a city such as Calcutta. It is difficult to conceive that it can be seriously contended that a person who just pays Rs. 25 is entitled to an equal voice in the election of the Commissioners with the large commercial houses which are the chief factors in the prosperity of the town, or that a landlord of many of the largest and most heavily-rated houses in the town ought to have this vote balanced by that of a clerk in an office living in a house rented at Rs. 25 to Rs 30 a month. Although the effect of this Proposal will obviously be to assist the European community somewhat in election contests, as they on the average live in much more heavily rated houses than the native rate-payers, the Committee do not consider that it will make any very material difference in the nationality of the Corporation; nor do they mainly adopt it on that ground. In general the wealthier Europeans will be voting in the same ward with the poorer Europeans, and the wealthier natives with the poorer natives; but the Committee consider that the quality of the persons who will become candidates for election will be everywhere improved. If the one-man-one-vote principle is adopted, the Committee consider it certain that as the poorer rate-payers, who will everywhere be the majority, learn to use their power, the status of those who present themselves for election will gradually but inevitably decline; while if wealth is given its due weight, better and more influential persons will be willing to offer themselves for election. The Committee hope that on fuller consideration the Association will see that the remedy which they suggest would be even worse than the disease, and lead to precisely the opposite result to that which they wish to attain."

That principles italicized in the foregoing passage should be formally enunciated by a body of European gentlemen and under an enlightened Government seeking to encourage Self-government among its people is enough to take away one's breath. We are forcibly reminded of Coriolanus's disinclination to seek the suffrages of 'the onion and garlic-breathed multitude,' and are persuaded that if any of the gentlemen signing the Report were to stand an English Election with a manifesto anything like this, a shower of rotten eggs would be all the return for his pains. As the Committee of the British Indian Association pertinently observe:—"Nowhere is the wealth, importance, social influence, or nationality of the inhabitants ever taken into consideration; to do so would be to totally destroy the cardinal principle of local self-government. In Europe, when Municipalities were first constituted, town populations included princes, bishops, and great landholders, as well as petty traders and manumitted slaves; but in the matter of franchise the prince who owned one-half of the area of a town was not allowed any advantage over the manumitted slave, who owned no land but claimed his right to vote on the ground of his being a tax-payer. This is the only sound principle of action; any other would transfer all real power to a favored few, and reduce the rest to a nullity."

We do hope Sir Stuart Bayley will set his face firmly against the dangerous doctrines enunciated by the Committee and will do away with the system of plural voting as regards its objectionable features.

The Constitution of the Corporation has been discussed at length by the Committee of the British Indian Association in their letter to the Government. The utter injustice of allowing special privileges to Associations like the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades Association and to the Port Commissioners have been

made very patent. We consider the question in all its bearings last year and shall recur in a future issue to the reasons adduced by the British Indian Association. But it seems useless to do so as there is very little likelihood of any heed being paid to our representations or to those of our public bodies. The Anglo-Indian community of Calcutta have set their heart on Hindoo suppression and in this righteous determination they are backed by strong official aid, open and covert, and chance seems to favour their success every way, the good intentions of Sir Stuart Bayley notwithstanding.

SIR SYED AHMED KHAN'S SPEECH.

It has pained us extremely to read the speech which the Hon'ble Sir Syed Ahmed Khan delivered to the members of the Mahomedan Educational Congress, held at Lucknow last Christmas week. We have always entertained a high respect for the worthy Syed and admired him for his strenuous efforts to improve the condition of his co-religionists. We have watched with great interest the progress of the Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental College founded by him at Aligarh. The backwardness of our Mahomedan fellow-subjects to avail themselves of the educational facilities placed within their reach by the Government has always been a matter of deep regret to us. The professed object of the Educational Congress, which met at Lucknow the other day, was to discuss some important questions connected with Mahomedan education, and so far it commanded the warm sympathy of all sincere well-wishers of the country. We noticed in a recent issue the proceedings of the Congress, and particularly commended the resolution passed to the effect that the establishment of the Allahabad University would be a misfortune to the country if it tended to lower the present standard of high education. It is, however, a matter of deep regret that Sir Syed Ahmed Khan should have so far forgotten himself as to make the Congress an occasion for delivering a tremendous political harangue. At the conclusion of the labours of the Congress, he might have appropriately exhorted the assembled Mahomedan gentlemen, most of whom were ignorant of English, to exert all their influence for the dissemination of Western learning among their co-religionists, and pointed out the advantages which the community would derive from high English education. But, instead of doing so, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan went out of his way to make a political demonstration. He thought fit to ridicule the National Congress movement and pour the vials of his wrath upon the devoted heads of poor Bengalis. In this respect, indeed, he has out-Griffined Sir Lepel Griffin. By doing this Sir Ahmed Khan has, no doubt, earned the commendation of the average Anglo-Indian, whose narrow and illiberal views find expression in the columns of the *Pioneer*. But we may assure him that by taking this ill-advised course, he has considerably lowered himself in the estimation of all right-minded Englishmen.

We have no desire to comment upon Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's speech at any great length. We would only make a few brief remarks upon one or two salient points of his address. The Syed began by propounding the curious doctrine that the subjects of the Empire should not criticise the action of Government in questions of foreign policy and in matters affecting the army. He said:—"If Government fight Afghanistan or conquer Burma, it is no business of ours to criticise its policy, our interests will not suffer from these matters being left in the hands of Government." It is really very strange that a sensible man like the Syed should have seriously expressed this view. How can it be said that if the Government fight Afghanistan or conquer Burma, it is no business of ours to criticise its policy, when we have to pay for the fighting and the conquest? Can the Syed be ignorant of such a simple fact that our two wars with Afghanistan have cost the Indian tax-payer not less than sixty crores of rupees? And what has been their fruit? Have not these wars made an honest alliance with the Afghans impossible? If we could rely on the

friendship of the Afghan, the task of repelling a Russian invasion of India, which must surely take place sooner or later, would be a very easy affair. But our two Afghan wars have made it impossible for the Amir to trust the English. Our so-called ally would not even allow English troops to pass through his country in order to repel a Muscovite attack upon his territories. If the British Treasury paid for the Afghan wars, and if those wars had not increased the difficulties of solving the Central-Asian question a thousand fold, we might have remained silent. Take again, the conquest of Burma. The dominions of Theebaw have been incorporated into the British Empire with a view to open new markets for English manufactures. But the unrepresented and dumb Indian tax-payer would have to bear the entire expenditure not only of conquering and pacifying Burma but of constructing roads and railways in the country. Upper Burma has already cost India four crores of rupees, and for years to come it would be a burden upon the Indian exchequer. If Burma had been made a Crown Colony, we would not have objected to its conquest and annexation. The Famine Fund has, in spite of Lord Lytton's solemn pledge, been misappropriated, and the "odious" income-tax has been re-imposed in order to meet the additional expenditure necessitated by the conquest of Burma. Is that measure no concern of ours, when we have to pay for it? Then, as regards the army, the Syed should know that India, to use the words of Sir Charles Dilke, "is being ruined by the monetary calls made upon her by a system which is unsuited to her requirements." A heavy burden has been imposed upon India by the introduction of the short-service system. With regard to the army, a partnership has been established between England and India, which is simply ruinous to the latter. Under this partnership which was forced upon India on the transfer of the Government of the country from the East India Company to the crown, India had to contribute her share towards many costly arrangements as to the adoption of which she was not even consulted. If India were permitted to keep a local European army as in the days of the Company, our Military expenditure would be much smaller than it now is. How, in the face of these incontestable facts, the Syed could seriously declare that it is no business of ours to criticise the action of the Government in questions of foreign policy and matters affecting the army, we cannot for the life of us comprehend.

It is, however, only fair to say that Sir Ahmed Khan concedes the right of the people of India to discuss questions of internal policy. But here again, he holds that we ought to be satisfied with the system of administration adopted by the Government. He observed: "The Government has a Council for making laws affecting the lives, property and comfort of the people. For this Council she selects from all provinces those officials who are best acquainted with the administration and the condition of the people, and also some *Raisas* who, on account of their high social position, are worthy of a seat in that assembly." Does the Syed really believe that the means devised by the authors of the Indian Councils Act of 1861 for ascertaining the thoughts and feelings, wants and wishes of the Native Community in matters of legislation, fully meet the necessities of the case? The new system has now been in operation for twenty-seven years, and he would be a bold man who would venture to assert that the experiment has been attended with the desired success. The appointment of non-official members being dependent on selection by Government, they, as Government nominees, with a few honorable exceptions, have not unfrequently shown by their action that they consider it their duty to shape their opinion with reference to that of the Government, irrespective of the merits of the questions laid before them, and thus fail to give expression to the thoughts and feelings of the people whom they are supposed to represent. In the second place, *Raisas* are sometimes appointed, who owing to their ignorance of the English language in which the laws are framed and the debates upon them conducted, are, as a matter of course, not in a position to discharge their onerous duties and responsibilities with that intelligence and interest which they are expected to exercise.

from their position and from the trust reposed in them. In the third place, as the Legislative Councils are now constituted, the non-official members are in a standing minority, being generally three or four out of twelve or fifteen. In a legislative body in which the non-official element is at such a disadvantage, it may well be imagined that there is no incentive to the expression of Native opinion, and when expressed it has little practical effect. It is not at all surprising that legislation under the present system has frequently not been in consonance with the wants, wishes and feelings of the people, and that it has proved fruitful of changes and innovations which have tended to unsettle the minds of the people. The want of a proper representation of the thoughts, wishes and feelings of the people in the Legislative Councils is deeply felt, and it is high time that this want should be supplied. It is, therefore, a marvel how a man of such strong common sense as Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is reputed to be, could raise his voice against the reorganisation of the Legislative Councils of India upon a popular basis. This measure is absolutely necessary for the good administration of the country, more particularly for the proper management of its finances. We will not notice Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's unreasonable and perfectly gratuitous attack upon the Bengalis.

ADVOCATES OF THE HIGH COURT.

THE present rules of the Calcutta High Court relating to the admission and enrolment of Advocates were framed in July, 1862. Circumstances of the country have greatly changed within the last twenty-five years, and it is universally felt that some amendment of these rules has become necessary to meet the growing wants of the people. The Managing Committee of the British Indian Association have written a letter to the Registrar of the High Court pointing out the urgent necessity for amending the existing rules on the subject. The Bombay and the Madras High Courts admit local University graduates as Advocates on their observing certain conditions prescribed by the Courts. The Calcutta High Court has denied this privilege to graduates of the Calcutta University, as also to Vakils practising in the Appellate side of the Court, however mature their experience may be in their profession, and however high their attainments in law may be. The qualifications for an Advocate which are prescribed by the Calcutta High Court cannot be acquired in India, and the consequence is that natives of India, who have not kept terms at the Inns of Court in England, or graduated in law in Scotland or Ireland, cannot be at present admitted as Advocates. The best men in the country are thus held to be unfit to work as Advocates of the High Court and benefit the suitors of the Court. The practical effect of such exclusion is that the metropolis of India is left entirely dependent on the Law schools of Great Britain and Ireland for its supply of local Advocates, and this is due not to any lack of talent here, but because an amendment of the old rules regarding the qualification and enrolment of Advocates has never been seriously submitted to the consideration of the Court. It is evident to all who do not wish to blink the truth that this state of things is greatly injurious to the great majority of native suitors; and the Committee of the British Indian Association are perfectly justified in praying that the existing rules may be so amended that both Bachelors of Law and Vakils of the Court may be admitted as Advocates.

As regards graduates in Law, either the Bombay rules requiring special law examination after two years' attendance in Court, or the Madras rules which dispense with such examination, may be adopted with such modifications as may be deemed fit. The Committee would prefer to drop the examination altogether, as it would be of no practical use. If the privilege be limited to graduates who have attained the degree of Doctor in Law, or passed with honors at the B. L. examination, there would be ample guarantee about their legal qualification, and for the present the Committee do not desire to extend the privilege to the lower grades of the law graduates.

For Vakils who do not come under the above definition the case is different. Their claims rest on their thorough knowledge of their business and their long experience. They have always keenly felt the hardship of the practice of the Court. So far back as 1868 a case came on for hearing before a Division Bench of the High Court composed of Mr. Justice Bayley and Mr. Justice Phear, in which the question was raised as to whether Barristers have pre-audience before pleaders in the Appellate side of the Court. Mr. Justice Bayley was of opinion that there were good and cogent reasons for framing some rules which would define satisfactorily the position and relative precedence of barristers and pleaders. But he thought that as there was no express rule and established practice governing the question, the claim of Mr. Mon Mohun Ghose (the Advocate who claimed pre-audience) should not be allowed. Mr. Justice Phear, however, was of a different opinion. He thought that the contention of Mr. Mon Mohun Ghose was just, and that the Advocate, who in the present case was a Barrister, was entitled to precedence over the Vakil. Sir Barnes Peacock, the Chief Justice, was the Committee understand, of the same opinion as Mr. Justice Phear. This decision gave great dissatisfaction at the time. Mr. Mon Mohun Ghose had been called to the bar only two or three years before the occasion, while Babu Anukul Chunder Mukerjee, against whom pre-audience was claimed, was an eminent Vakil of the time, of long standing, mature experience and high legal attainments, so much so that he was shortly afterwards raised to the Bench which he graced as much to his own credit as to that of his profession and of his countrymen. Sir Barnes Peacock, the Committee are credibly informed, expressed a willingness after this decision was given, to amend the existing rules in such a way as to admit Vakils of a certain standing as Advocates. But the proposal was not carried into effect.

Four years after this, in April 1872, the Vakils of the Court presented a memorial to Sir Richard Couch, the then Chief Justice, and his companion Justices, in which they submitted that the rules framed and passed by the High Court on the 16th of July, 1862, and the rules subsequently promulgated with effect from the coming into operation of the Charter of the High Court, dated 28th December, 1865, appeared to militate against the provisions of the Letters Patent of 1862 and 1865, and to be subversive of a considerable portion of the rights and privileges conferred on the memorialists by the Letters Patent, inasmuch as the said rules shut the memorialists out from practising as Vakils in the Original side of the High Court. They prayed that the rules in question be reconsidered, and so altered and modified as to their Lordships might seem meet and proper. Upon receipt of the memorial a copy was sent to the Advocate General on behalf of the Advocates, another copy to the Secretary to the Attorneys' Association, and a letter was addressed to the Senior Government Vakil intimating to him that the Court had determined to hear the Vakils in support of their memorial on the 16th of May, 1872. The question was argued before a Bench composed of all the Judges (being nine in number) of the Court. No decision, however, was given by the Court.

It will thus appear that the exclusion of Vakils from the privileges of Advocates has caused, and is still causing, considerable dissatisfaction among the Vakils as well as among all classes of the community. The Vakils as a class have shown by their ability, honesty and legal acquirements that they, or at any rate the more experienced amongst them, are in every way fit to be admitted as Advocates of the Court. And it was obviously this fact which led Her Majesty's Government to sanction the provision for raising members of that profession to the Bench. In the Appellate Side of the Court the Vakils have every day to deal with questions involving momentous interests, and the manner in which they perform their work has given complete satisfaction to the public and the honorable Judges of the Court. In the Original Side the same class of cases (with certain exceptions) come up for hearing; and there can be no doubt that the Vakils, if they are admitted as Advocates, will be competent to conduct them with the same ability which they display in the Appellate Side.

Again the emoluments of a Vakil are less than the honorarium of a Barrister of equal merit. And then the existing arrangements, denying a legitimate privilege to the Vakils as a body, serve not only to obstruct their advance in life and professional acquirements, but tell in no small measure upon the public at large by drawing upon their purse. It is desirable that under a Government, which has always been ahead of all civilized nations in the matter of free trade, there should be no unreasonable delay in

removing the peculiar disqualification of deserving Vakils, and the sort of protection in regard to Barristers, which has been referred to above. In fact the public at large, the Vakils themselves, and even the Government are all interested in removing the disability of the Vakils.

To confer the privilege prayed for on all Vakils would, the Committee are prepared to admit, be unadvisable and inexpedient. They submit, however, that a great advance will be made towards recognising the claims of the Native Bar, if the Vakils of a certain standing be admitted as Advocates on such conditions as the Hon'ble Judges may impose in that behalf. The Committee are aware that in giving effect to the proposal for enrolling a number of Vakils as Advocates, questions of some difficulty might arise. All pleaders of a certain standing may not desire to be enrolled as Advocates. With some a change in their professional status might mean a sacrifice of emoluments which they could ill bear to submit to. It appears to the Committee, however, that in the Vakils' Association the Hon'ble Court might find an institution which might be utilized for the present purpose. The Court may rule that only such pleaders of a certain standing, who shall signify to the Vakils' Association their willingness to be enrolled as Advocates, and whose names the Association may deem fit to submit to the Court, shall be admitted as Advocates. The question of the number of years' practice which should make a Vakil eligible for promotion to the higher grade of Advocates might well be considered with reference to that provision in Her Majesty's Letters Patent which makes a Vakil of ten years' standing eligible to a Judgeship of the Court. Keeping that provision in view the Committee do not think that a minimum limit of 7 years would be at all unreasonable.

It has been said in certain quarters that the admission of Vakils as Advocates would, by increasing the present number of Advocates, have the effect of considerably weakening the European Bar. Very few English Barristers would care to come out to the country, if the Bar be overcrowded and their emoluments consequently diminished. It is not the interest of the native community, it is urged, that the number of English Advocates practising in the country should be reduced. English Judges and Magistrates, in the Mufassil specially, it is believed, can be managed by English Advocates alone, and so in order to secure a better administration of justice, no steps should be taken which would result in discouraging, and ultimately preventing, English Barristers from joining the Indian Bar. We do not quite see the cogency of the argument. The High Court has now on its rolls a large number of native gentlemen, who, after keeping terms at the Inns of Court in England, have been admitted as Advocates of the High Court. Some of these native Advocates have considerable practice both in Calcutta and the Mufassil. It has never been said that they are not able to hold their own either before English or native Judges. If these native gentlemen can efficiently do the work entrusted to them, why not others equally qualified? To our mind the apprehensions which have been expressed as to the inability of native Advocates managing English Judges and Magistrates are not well grounded, and should have no weight in determining the question as to whether Vakils of a certain standing in the Bar should be admitted as Advocates so as to entitle them to practise in all sides of the High Court. It is time that, in the interests of the public as well as of the native Bar, and having regard to the encouragement which is due to merit and to the claims of Bengal as compared to those of Bombay and Madras—the Vakils should be granted the privilege which they crave.

LIGHT RAILWAYS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

THE question of constructing light railways in the Central Provinces seems to have been taken up in right earnest by the head of the local Administration. We see that Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, the new Chief Commissioner, before starting on his winter tour held a durbar at Nagpur. In the course of a speech delivered on the occasion, he called the attention of the assembled Native gentlemen to the importance of providing feeder railways to the Bengal-Nagpur line, which will soon be running through the southern half of the Province. Mr. Mackenzie

pointed out that the benefits of the Bengal-Nagpur line which is now under construction, great as they will be, cannot be fully realised without subsidiary communications; and that though the G. I. P. Railway running through the narrow grain-fields of the Nerbudda valley is able to tap the whole of the local production, the case is entirely different with the corn-lands of Chatisgarh stretching far away to the south of Raipur and Sumbulpur. It was further urged that in the existing state of communications in the Province much of its produce will be practically almost as much shut off from a market as it was before. With a view to remedy this state of things and to promote the interests of his company, the Agent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has suggested that a company of Native capitalists should undertake the construction of branch lines. Mr. Mackenzie has adopted this idea, and in his Durbar speech under notice he appealed to the Native gentlemen present to take the project and carry it into execution.

The idea, we need scarcely remind the reader, is not a new one. It was first conceived fourteen-years ago by Colonel (now General) Alexander Fraser, then Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces in the Public Works Department. The new plan was first applied to the case of the Muttra-Hathras Railway, and it was subsequently extended to the Ghazipur-Dildarnagar line, the Patna-Gya line, and the Cawnpur-Furruckabad line. In the case of the Muttra-Hathras Railway which cost altogether about ten lakhs, one-quarter of the sum was raised from the local Native capitalists, through the exercise of undue official pressure. Shares were, in fact, forced upon these men by the collectors of their respective districts. The vast majority of the share-holders were so anxious to get rid of the shares, that they were only too glad to dispose of them at a heavy discount. While four per cent. Government Promissory Notes were selling at a premium of from 5 to 6 per cent., the shareholders of the Muttra-Hathras Railway parted with their shares at 20 to 25 per cent. discount, even though they had been promised a rateable division of the surplus net profits in addition to the guaranteed four per cent. interest. The consequence was that the bulk of the shares passed into the hands of European officials. The *Pioneer*, in noticing Mr. Mackenzie's Durbar speech, remarks:—"It remains to be seen whether the appeal will take; but there seems to be no reason why native capital should not come forward in the Central Provinces as it has done in the North-West in the case of the local light railways set on foot by Sir Alfred Lyall." Now, the simple truth is, that Native capitalists did not voluntarily subscribe to the local light railways in the North-West Provinces. They did so under strong official pressure. As their district officer invited them to take up shares, they could not refuse to do so. It must not be forgotten that no Native gentleman, who has any stake in the district, can afford to incur the displeasure of the Magistrate-Collector, who is almost a king within his jurisdiction. Any invitation conveyed by a district-officer to a Native gentleman of position is tantamount to a mandate. It must be remembered that Native capitalists cannot be expected to voluntarily invest their capital in an undertaking, which promises at best 4 or 5 per cent. They find no difficulty in making perfectly safe investments in good security yielding 12 per cent. This being the case, it is idle to suppose that Native capital will come forward for the construction of light railways in the Central Provinces. Money can only be raised for the purpose by the exercise of official pressure. If Mr. Mackenzie desires to avoid the use of undue influence, he should instruct the district and divisional officers not to urge Native capitalists to undertake the construction of branch lines. Let local loans be opened for the purpose and tenders called for by a notification in the official *Gazette*. We shall then see how far the Chief Commissioner's appeal is responded to.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

SIR Henry Maine has resigned his seat in the Council of the Secretary of State for India.

MR. LAWRENCE, Under-Secretary to the Government of India, in the Agricultural Department, has been appointed Secretary to Lady Dufferin's Fund *vice* Major Cooper.

SARDAR Muhammad Ayub Khan and the principal Sardars with him left Meshed on the 19th instant on their way to India *via* Teheran and Baghdad.

AS ALREADY announced his Excellency the Grand Master of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire will hold an Investiture of the Order. It will take place in the Throne Room of Government House on Saturday, the 4th February, at 12 o'clock noon.

THE first Exhibition of pictures by the Photographic Society was opened on Wednesday last at the Indian Museum. Not only were Indian photographers, both amateurs and professionals, well represented, but pictures had been sent from England, America, France, Germany, Denmark, and Japan. The Exhibition was opened under the auspices of her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin.

MR. GIRDLESTONE, the Nepal Resident, has been granted privilege leave for three months. This is the time when a strong man is required at the Nepal Residency. The prime minister of Nepal will probably visit Calcutta before the departure of the Viceroy, and we hope an understanding will be arrived at between the India Government and the Nepal Durbar by which the peace of the mountain territory may be permanently secured.

WE deeply regret to announce the death of Babu Dwarikanath Chakravarti, of heart-disease, at Droghur, on Thursday last. Babu Dwarikanath was a distinguished Vakil of the Calcutta High Court, and was highly esteemed for his ability and thorough knowledge of the science of law. His amiable manners greatly endeared him to all with whom he came into contact. For nearly three years he was Assistant Secretary of the British Indian Association, and in this capacity rendered valuable services to the Association. His loss is deeply mourned by a large circle of friends and admirers.

THE Hon'ble Sir Charles Aitchison distributed prizes to the meritorious students of the City College on Saturday afternoon. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Sir Charles expressed himself greatly satisfied with the success achieved by the Institution. Certainly it was a matter of no small congratulation, he said, that within ten years this school should have developed into a college such as this, being attended by some 300 students, and having branch schools under it at which 1,000 scholars received their education. That this should have resulted from self-effort, without subsidy from Government, without direction from the Educational department, and without the instruction of Government, was to him an unique experience, something very different from what he had been accustomed to in other parts of India with which he was more familiar than Calcutta.

Socialism is making alarming progress in the German Empire. It has been found necessary to adopt stringent measures to root out the evil. The Anti-social Bill which has been introduced into the Reichsrath, provides for expatriation with deprivation of rights as German citizens, of all Socialists, with a view to prevent the spread of their doctrines.

THE trial of Messrs. Graham and Burns, for being concerned in the Trafalgar Square riots on the 13th of November, has ended. Mr. Graham, M. P., and Mr. Burns have been sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment on the ground of their having been members of an unlawful assembly. They have been both acquitted on the charge of rioting. The special constables enrolled during the Trafalgar Square riots have been dismissed, the authorities being of opinion that there is now no further occasion for their services.

THE Pope, receiving the Irish clergy (January 16) exhorted them to use their influence with their charges towards the restoration of quiet, to inculcate respect for the law, and prevail on them to abstain from acts of violence. We hope the Pope's exhortations will produce the desired effect. Reuter telegraphs, however, that great excitement prevails in Dublin owing to the assertion made by Mr. Wilfrid Blunt that Mr. Balfour had declared to him privately in September last that the method he intended to pursue in order to suppress the Home Rule movement was to imprison the leaders, and subject them to rigorous treatment in Jail, by which means he expected they would give in. Mr. Balfour has given a formal denial to this statement.

THE warcloud in Europe has an ominous look. On the occasion of opening the Prussian Diet by the king in person, in the speech from the throne, his Majesty said that he anticipated the restoration and maintenance of the financial equilibrium, unless events which could not be calculated upon should occur to prevent it. The speech has been interpreted in an unfavourable sense, and has occasioned a depression on the Bourse. The Czar, however, when receiving (January 16) a deputation bringing congratulations from the city of Moscow, said 'he firmly hopes the New Year will be one of peace and prosperity,' and the *Journal de St. Petersburg* commenting on the recently published Russian Budget says that the reductions therein announced affirm Russia's pacific policy, and proceed to express confidence in the preservation of a long peace. In spite of these pacific utterances Russia is still continuing the concentration of her troops on the Galician frontier; and so very naturally the pacific assurances given by the Czar do not obtain much credence in Berlin and Vienna. The *Invalides Russe* gave certain statistics purporting to show that preparations for war are being made by Germany; but the official Berlin Military Journal has given an elaborate refutation to the statement. Such is the state of affairs in Europe. Both Russia and Germany are making preparations for immediate war, but both of them disclaim any intention of disturbing European peace. Efforts are being made by M. Flourens to bring about an *entente* between France, Russia, and England, but it is generally believed in political circles in Berlin that they will most certainly end in failure. The war-cloud may burst at any moment in Europe, and there is no knowing what the extent of the disastrous consequences will be.

WHILE the Government of India is at its wit's end how to establish equilibrium between its revenue and expenditure, the American statesmen are embarrassed with an immense accumulation of surplus revenue in the public Treasury. It is anticipated that at the close of the present official year in July, there will be a surplus of not less than £25,000,000 sterling in the vaults at Washington. The American statesmen do not know what to do with this surplus. They have, we are told, exhausted every device to get rid of the surplus by redeeming the public bonds and anticipating every public demand that could properly be anticipated for months to come. And yet there is a balance of £25,000,000. It is worthy of note that American statesmen with such a huge surplus in their hands, hesitate to remit or even to reduce the duties levied upon imports into the States. But the Government of India, in order to have the way cleared for the abolition of the cotton duties,

first introduced direct taxation, and then created a fictitious surplus by crediting in the books at once the contribution from the British Treasury towards the cost of the Afghan War although it was payable in several instalments. In a rich country like the United States with such a large surplus no less than four thousand articles are enumerated in the customs tariff as subject to duty. But poor India was not allowed to retain the very small duties which were levied upon the finer kinds of cotton goods consumed by the well-to-do classes of the community. The contrast is so striking that all further comment upon it is perfectly needless.

THE *Pioneer* has drawn an important lesson from the recent Civil Service dinner in Calcutta. After pointing out that there are fifteen districts in Lower Bengal which are reckoned to be decidedly unhealthy, that in eight of these districts the medical officer is a Native, and that in six of these stations the European Civilian is without a brother officer of his own nationality, the writer in the *Pioneer* goes on to say:—"The fact is that Lower Bengal is the home of the Babu, and he is permitted to put in his service in whatever branch it may be in his own country. Hence every service in Lower Bengal is filled with Bengalis, and the European Civilian, who is presumably a man of the same castes and habits as his brother in the North-Western Provinces, is either condemned to absolute solitude or is driven to associate with men with whom he has not an idea in common outside official work. When we think of the additional depression of spirits this must cause to a mind already sufficiently depressed by climatic effects, we can but marvel at the intellectual tenacity which keeps men from drifting into melancholy under the influence of these conditions." Well, the complaint of which the *Pioneer* speaks is perfectly unreasonable. The European Civilian accepted employment in Lower Bengal with his eyes open. He must have known at the time of his admission to the service that one-third of the large salary paid to him is compensation for the discomforts and disadvantages of residence in an unhealthy climate and in exile. So long as he receives this compensation, it is not at all fair that he should have cause for discontent for being obliged to devote the best years of his life "to a modified solitary confinement." His complaint can only be listened to when he gives up the one-third of his salary which he receives as compensation for leaving home and coming out to a foreign country.

It is stated that the true deficit in the forthcoming Budget will be somewhat in excess of two crores of rupees. When the Financial Statement for the current year was published, we pointed out that the expenditure on account of Burma had been under-estimated. The Government of India made a show of reducing the cost of pacifying Upper Burma by withdrawing a number of regular troops employed for the purpose. But as a matter of fact, the place of these troops was taken by military policemen. The Sepoy gets from Rs. 7 to 9 per month, whereas the military policeman receives Rs. 14. The withdrawal of a number of regular troops, therefore, instead of reducing the expenditure in Upper Burma, actually increased it. But the arrangement had one great advantage. It enabled the Government of India to assure the British public that the work of pacifying Upper Burma had almost been accomplished. For a long time to come Burma would continue to be a burden upon the Indian revenues. We have been assured that there is no intention of augmenting the Income-tax and no change of reimposing import duties in Lancashire goods. The Government of India has already taken an important step towards meeting the deficit in the forthcoming Budget. A *Gazette Extraordinary* was issued last Thursday, announcing that the duty upon salt imported into Lower Burma, or manufactured therein, is henceforward to be one rupee per maund; and that the salt duty throughout British India, except in the territories west of the Indus, is to be the uniform rate of Rs. 2½ per maund. We

have always maintained the view that the reduction of the salt duties to Rs. 2 a maund effected in 1882 involved a wanton sacrifice of revenue. When it was proposed to introduce fresh taxation two years ago, we strongly urged that instead of re-imposing the "odious" Income-tax, the Government of India should raise the salt duties, as their reduction had not stimulated consumption to the extent expected. The Government did not adopt our suggestion. The Income-tax was re-imposed and now the salt duties have again been raised. So the candle will now burn at both ends. It is calculated, however, that the increase of the salt duty will probably give some 20 lakhs in India during the next 2½ months, while raising the tax from three annas to one rupee in Burmah should yield another two lakhs or more. The increase in the course of the next financial year will probably amount to something like one crore and fifty lakhs in India and 12½ lakhs in Burmah.

We notice that the main idea running through the Board of Revenue's Report on the working of the Income-Tax in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh during the past official year, is that a high assessment is necessarily a good assessment. It is because the average Anglo-Indian official entertains this view that we have always protested against the introduction of direct taxes into this country, and urged the impossibility of working them satisfactorily. If the history of direct taxation in India proves one thing more than another, it is that such taxation is utterly unsuited to the conditions existing in the country. We are glad to find that the *Pioneer* characterises the view of the Allahabad Board of Revenue that a high assessment is necessarily a good assessment as "a complete delusion." Our contemporary writes:—"An unduly high assessment of the Income Tax in any district is as deserving of censure as an unduly high assessment of land revenue. Both are equally injurious to the people and to the Government. The bad assessments of the former Income Tax led to such a storm of dissatisfaction and discontent that the Government thought it the wisest course to abandon the tax. The lesson there given should not be forgotten, and it is particularly incumbent on all authorities wishing to retain the Income Tax to see that it is worked in such a way as to minimise reasonable cause for complaint. The real working of the tax cannot be sufficiently tested by figures. No figures can show the omission of those who ought to be taxed; no figures can show the inclusion of those who are not really in a position to pay the tax. The only thing that figures show is that so much was raised from each class." We need hardly say that we fully subscribe to every word in the passage just quoted. The simple and blunt truth is, as Mr. Allan Hume, while Junior Member of the North-West Board of Revenue, boldly remarked in his report on the working of the License Tax for 1879-80, it is impossible to assess a direct tax in this country with anything like fairness.

THE Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Defence Associations have, as we said in our last, addressed the Government of India on the question of closing the Calcutta Mint. The Council of the Association pertinently observe that the proposal has arisen mainly from the accident of the Mint being found idle on the occasion of a visit from Sir Charles Elliott's Finance Committee. But immediately after this visit the Mint was called upon to deal with the Gwalior bullion, and in the course of the seven months following it turned out not less than 380 lakhs of silver coins. The true test of the necessity of a Mint, the Council rightly urge, is to be found in the exceptional occasions when the currency is laid under special strain. Such strains may be rare and accidental; but, nevertheless, they are of the nature of those uncertainties which must be provided for, or serious inconveniences would arise at some time or other. It is well-known that the Calcutta Mint was at its highest activity as a consequence of the famines of 1866 and 1874, and of the Afghan War of 1878-80; and famines and wars are contingencies

which should not be overlooked. The Calcutta Mint, it is pointed out, has to supply Assam, Burma, the East Coast of India, the Lower Province and half of the United Provinces, and when the Bengal-Nagpore Railway has been completed, it will be necessary to minister to the requirements of one of the Central Provinces also. It may be admitted that the Bombay Mint is now in a position to meet the whole demand for rupee coinage. But in view of the serious inconvenience and loss which will result from the abolition of the Calcutta Mint when the currency is laid under special strain we earnestly hope that no consideration of petty economy will influence the decision of Government in this important question.

In discussing Mr. Archibald Colquhoun's scheme for establishing railway communication between Burma and the Chinese frontier, we expressed our firm conviction that the proposed line will never pay. It gives us much pleasure to find our view supported by Lieutenant Young Husband, of the Corps of Guides, in a letter addressed to the *Pioneer*. The writer having been over a good portion of the proposed line, has come forward to tell the public what he thinks of the project. He points out that the line between Moulmein and Raheng—the first lying in British territories section of the proposed railway—would have to cross the mass of ranges which lie between Burma and Siam. Such being the case, it would only be constructed at great cost and under great difficulties. Then, this region is either so deluged by rain, as to make work altogether impossible, or else is so unhealthy from malarious fever that a very heavy mortality is sure to occur among the labourers. Even if these difficulties were overcome, the railway, if completed, will never prove remunerative. Mr. Young Husband says: "The chief exports of Siam consist of rice, tobacco, teak and horned cattle. For the first three there is no local demand in Burma; and, as for the cattle, the owners are not likely, after marching several hundred miles through Siam, to train them for the last 76 miles of that journey into Moulmein. Even supposing they did, the annual export of cattle is so very small, that no railway could hope to earn its bread and cheese on cattle traffic alone. The passenger traffic would, I should say, be very small; for though Johung Burman is rather a wandering soul, the man of Siam is decidedly a stay-at-home character." So much for the first section of the proposed Railway. As regards the second section it can, no doubt, be constructed cheaply, as there are no engineering difficulties to be encountered. But Mr. Young Husband fails to see how the railway is going to compete successfully against the three great rivers parallel to which it runs, water transport in this region is far cheaper than land transport. He observes:—"We are taught to believe that the teeming millions of China and Siam are pining away for want of the cotton goods of Manchester, and that a railway would place these articles at their doors, underselling local manufactures. Let us think a little, let us ask what does the Chinaman wear in Calcutta, in Rangoon, in Singapore, in Bangkok throughout Siam—Manchester goods? Not he! he wears Chinese cloths, of Chinese Manufacture, and turned out by Chinese tailors. Does one see a single man or woman in a hundred in Siam, even near the coast wearing Manchester cotton goods? The only trade that would really be remunerative would be in fire-arms, gun-powder and percussion caps. I suppose it is hardly the wish of the British Government, whatever private traders may think, to encourage the armament of a possibly formidable enemy." The advice which Mr. Young Husband gives to speculators is "keep your money in your pocket." But the British capitalist does not need his advice. He will not invest at single farthing in the proposed Moulmein-Yunnan-Railway, nay, not even in railways in India, without a Government guarantee. If the proposed railway be constructed, the whole burden will fall upon the poor and voiceless Indian taxpayer.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN CONSUMPTION.—Dr. Sinclair Coghill, Physician to the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Disease of the Chest, Ventnor, writes:—"For many years I have, in private practice, exclusively prescribed the Cod Liver Oil of Dr. de Jongh, for a large and intimate experience of its superiority as a remedial agent in appropriate cases to other Cod Liver Oils ignorantly lauded on account of their comparative tastelessness and lightness of colour. More recently I have had, in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption here, an opportunity of instituting a more extensive and systematic comparison, and I have convinced myself that in Tubercular and the various forms of Strumous Disease, Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil possesses greater therapeutic efficacy than any other Cod Liver Oil with which I am acquainted. It was especially noted, in a large number of cases in which the patients protested they had never been able to retain or digest other Cod Liver Oil, that Dr. de Jongh's Oil was not only tolerated, but taken readily, and with marked benefit. Dr. de Jongh's Oil is now the only Cod Liver Oil used in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Disease of the Chest." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints and quarts, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn London.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.
(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET.)
(SESSION 1887-8.)

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Tuesday, the 24th January, 1888, at 7 P. M.

Subject: The Telephone and the Microphone.
PRACTICAL CLASS in Physics under Babu Jagadish Chunder Bose, B. Sc., on Wednesday the 25th Inst., at 3-30 P. M.

Lecture by the Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., O. I. E., on Thursday, the 26th Inst., at 7 P. M.

Subject: Reflection on Curved Surfaces.
Lecture by Dr. Rajanikanta Sen, on Friday the 27th Inst., at 7 P. M.

Subject: Aluminium and its Compounds:—Manufacture of Glass, Porcelain, and Earthenware.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on Saturday, the 28th Inst., at 4 P. M.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
January 21st 1888. Honorary Secretary.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—18th January, 1887.

General.—Babu Damrila is appointed to a Special Deputy Collector for employment on excise duty in the District of Gya.

Mr W H Thomson, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Monghyr, is transferred to Faridpore, and is appointed to have charge of the Goalundo Sub-Division of that District.

Mr H F Marthews, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Shababad, is allowed furlough for eighteen months, under section 60 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

In modification of the order of the 2nd December last, Babu Tuli Das Mukerji, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is transferred to Rungpore.

Babu Chundry Churn Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpore, is transferred to Bogra.

Mr G V Bolton, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Faridpore, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr A Weekes, or until further orders.

Babu Jagendra Chunder Bhunia is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the fourth grade, and is posted to the Sonthal Pergunnahs District.

The late Babu Sital Nath Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, was on privilege leave from the 4th to the 18th July 1887, inclusive.

Babu Nanda Nath Bannerji, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, is allowed leave for one year, under section 16, chapter II of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 8th November 1887.

Moulvi Abdul Ghaffar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca, is allowed leave for two months, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date as he may avail himself of it.

Mr D B Allen, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade, with effect from the 14th September 1887, vice Mr G E Manisay.

Mr Allen will continue to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr W H Gimley, Magistrate and Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, on furlough, is promoted to the first grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 9th December 1887, vice Mr T Norman, retired.

Mr A A Wagon, Magistrate and Collector, Bhagalpore, is promoted to the second grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 9th December 1887, vice Mr W H Gimley.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Government of Bengal in the General Department, dated the 6th March 1886, published on page 541 of the Calcutta Gazette of the 31st of the same month, notice is hereby given that an examination for the admission of female students to the certificate class of the Calcutta Medical College will be held in the Theatre of that College on Tuesday, the 14th February 1888, and following days.

Hours and Subjects of Examination.

Tuesday.—English dictation, Grammar, and Composition—from 1 to 4 P. M.

Wednesday.—History of England and India. Geography: General, and of India in particular—from 1 to 4 P. M.

Thursday.—Arithmetic: the first four rules, vulgar and decimal fractions, and proportion—from 1 to 4 P. M.

Candidates must apply in writing to the Principal of the Medical College, Calcutta, not later than the 11th February, for permission to appear at the examination.

Applications for permission to reside in the Sarnamayi hostel should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary to the Bengal Branch of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, Fort William, Calcutta.

A. CROFT,

Director of Public Instruction.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION UNDER SECTION 23 OF ACT IV. (B. C.) OF 1876.

A vacancy having occurred in the representation of Ward No. 18 by the disqualification of Mr. J. G. Apar, owing to his absence from Calcutta for six months consecutively, it is hereby notified that the rate and tax-payers of the aforesaid Ward must forthwith proceed to elect a Commissioner for the aforesaid Ward. As only one Commissioner has to be elected, each person qualified to vote will, under the concluding portion of Section 18, be entitled to only one vote.

The election will be held on Monday, the 27th February 1888, between hours of 9 A. M. and 6 P. M., at the Municipal Office. At a date not less than 21 days before the day fixed for taking the poll, a voting paper printed in blue ink will be forwarded by post to each of the registered voters.

The voter on receipt of this voting paper may—

- (1) Return it by post duly filled up to the Municipal Office in a closed cover marked "voting paper"
- (2) Return it by hand to the Municipal Office in a closed cover marked "voting paper"
- (3) Present it himself at the polling station on the day of the poll, or
- (4) Entrust it either open or in a closed cover at his option, to any person whom he may select, for delivery at the polling station on the day of the poll.

Any voter who, owing to miscarriage of the Post or other mishap, may not have received his voting paper by the 14th day before the poll, may apply at the Municipal Office personally or by agent for a duplicate, putting in a written statement that he has not received any voting paper.

Voting papers on different colored paper from the original and duplicate papers referred to above will be provided at the Municipal Office at the time of the poll, and any voter who has not already voted, or who may wish to cancel his previous vote, may, notwithstanding that he has already filled up an original or a duplicate voting paper, appear at the poll and fill up a paper in the presence of the polling officer, and such vote or votes shall alone be held valid and shall cancel all previous votes.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

Dated 13th January 1888.

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31st December, 1886.

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DIVIDEND—A dividend of 13½ per cent. to Shareholders, and

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These items will absorb the sum of **£56,668**, the surplus found by the Company's Actuaries in the Life Fund as at 31st December, 1886.

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A. B. ANTRAM.

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Manager.

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A.	6	8	13
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"	30	26	30
"	35	30	30

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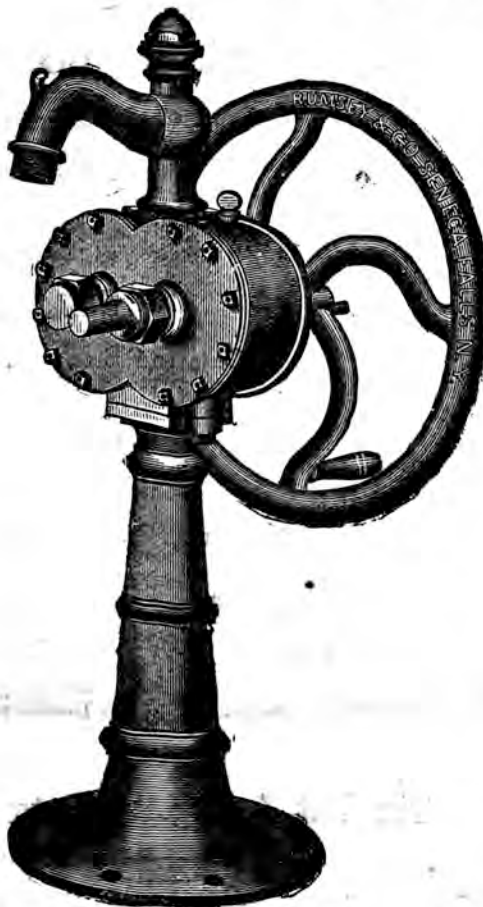
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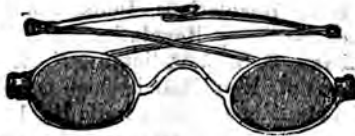
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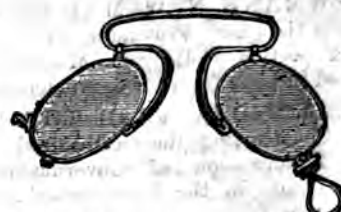
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